



Veteran VOICES

“Serving Those Who Served”

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www.dva.wa.gov

Vol. 4 Issue 17

FALL 2003

VAAC Receives New Members



Maurice Sharp

Governor Gary Locke recently appointed Maurice Sharp, National Commander of the American Ex-Prisoners of War and Dennis Primoli, a retired U.S. Air Force Commander, to serve four year terms on his Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee (VAAC).

In addition, Governor Locke re-appointed the following committee members for another four years: George Edmunson – Vietnam Veterans of America; Charles Karczewski – Paralyzed Veterans of America; Mary Jo Cahill – American Red Cross; and Robert Harcum – Military Order of the Purple Heart.

The VAAC – under the leadership of Chairman George Edmundson – is composed of 17 members and advises the Governor and the director of the Department of Veterans Affairs on issues and programs concerning veterans.

Open to the public, the next bimonthly meeting will be held November 12, 2003 in Bellingham. For additional information on meeting location and time, contact Cyndee Baugh at 360-725-2153 or cyndeeb@dva.wa.gov.

(Complete member roster appears on page 12).

Motorcyclists Raise \$1,000 for Veterans



The second annual “Salute to Veterans” event, sponsored by the Mt. St. Helen’s Motorcycle Club in Castlerock, raised another \$1,000 to assist Washington’s veterans.

Held as part of their Harley Night at the Rock, motorcycle enthusiasts spent the day riding the backroads of central Washington as part of a “dice run” to raise money for Washington’s veterans. This year’s ride will be used for the courtyards at the new Veterans Home facility being built at Retsil, near Port Orchard.

After returning to Castlerock, bike games gave riders a chance to show off their riding abilities as they competed in games such as “place the tennis ball on the pylons”. A bike show followed, giving bike owners a chance to show off their machines and have fellow bike-lovers vote for best in nine different categories.

The evening entertainment, flat-track motorcycle racing, began with a patriotic opening ceremony complete with military veterans Jeff Kiper, Brian Saltis and Ken Claiborn riding in as Color Guard before raising the Nation’s flag over the racetrack.

Last year’s event raised money for the Homeless Veterans program administered by WDVA.

VETERANS DAY ACTIVITIES

October 25 - 31
Moving Wall – Bridgeport, WA
POC: Ken Krugel (509) 686-3353
bridgeportwall@yahoo.com

November 1 – 30
Veterans’ History Awareness Month - State of Washington

November 2 - 9
Moving Wall – West Richland, WA
POC: Kathy Shirey (509) 586-2223
dkshirey@earthlink.net

November 7 - 1:30 p.m.
American Lake - Puget Sound Health Care System - Bldg 9 Auditorium
USPS to “unveil” Purple Heart and Korean War Memorial Commemorative Stamps
(206) 764-2435

November 8 - 11:00 a.m.
Auburn 38th Veterans Day Parade
Honoring Korean War Veterans
www.ci.auburn.wa.us
(253) 931-3043

November 8 - 11:00 a.m.
City of Vancouver
Veterans Day Parade
POC: Deborah Walstra
deborah.walstra@vancouverhistoricalreservetrust.org
(360) 992-1801

November 8 - 7:00 p.m.
Veterans Hanger USO Dance
Pearson Air Museum
1115 E. 5th St
Vancouver, WA 98661
(360) 694-7026

November 9 - 15
National Veterans Awareness Week

November 10 - 1:30 p.m.
Seattle PSHCS - BB108 Auditorium
(206) 764-2435

November 11 - 10:00 a.m.
City of Port Angeles and U.S.Coast Guard Group of Pt. Angeles
POC: Mayor Glenn Wiggins (360) 417-4500 or USCG (360) 417-5832

November 11 - 11:00 a.m.
Tahoma National Cemetery
18600 SE 240th St.
Kent, WA 98042-4868
M.C. John Lee, WDVA
(425) 413-9614

November 11 - 11:00 a.m.
Veterans Memorial Cemetery - Evergreen
Washelli Memorial Park
11111 Aurora Ave. N. Seattle, WA

November 11 - 11:00 am
Olympia Veterans Day Ceremony
Winged Victory - Capitol Campus
POC: Henry Lamb (360) 753.4663
JW Johnson (360) 459-0068

November 11
Vancouver Barracks Post Cemetery
POC: Deborah Walstra (360) 992-1801
deborah.walstra@vancouverhistoricalreservetrust.org

Spokane Veterans Home
POC: Shane Price
ShaneP@dva.wa.gov
(509) 344-5788

November 11
Washington Veterans Home
Residents and Families
POC: Catherine Shaw
CatherineS@dva.wa.gov
(360) 895-4376

November 11 - 1:30 p.m.
Sarg Hubbard Park Terrace Heights Blvd
Yakima, WA
POC: Jesse Villanueva
(509) 574--0131 (509) 952-4683 cell

November 11 - 2:00 p.m.
Washington Soldiers Home
POC: Lynn Zemke
LynnZ@dva.wa.gov
(360) 893-4511

November 23 - 5:00 p.m.
3rd Annual Veterans Appreciation Dinner – Special honors to Vietnam Veterans
St. Martin’s College, Lacey, WA.
Guest Speaker: Medal of Honor Recipient MG Patrick Brady
POC: Lovel Briere (360) 491-9067 or Gary Floyd (360) 459-2249
www.vetsappreciation.org
Reservations needed

What’s Inside...

<i>Veterans Day Activities</i>	page 1
<i>Director’s Message - CARES</i>	page 2
<i>Q & A on CARES</i>	page 3
<i>In Focus...Help Hospitalized Veterans</i>	page 4
<i>Veterans’ History Awareness Month</i>	page 5
<i>USDOL renews Homeless Vet Program Grants</i>	page 6
<i>WA Veterans Homes Highlights</i>	page 8
<i>National Notes</i>	page 10
<i>Hats Off to Ex-POWs</i>	page 12
<i>Korean War Anniversary Concludes</i>	page 12

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Director's Message



John M. King
WDVA Director

Making sense of CARES

The reality is that the veteran population in Washington State has grown, those veterans are aging, and their demand for care will grow exponentially over the next several decades.

services to veterans in our state's three State Veterans Homes. There are also possibilities for partnering in the provision of mental health services, especially in Eastern Washington.

VISN 20 must establish additional Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOC) to provide primary care services to veterans and eliminate the need for them to travel long distances and suffer long waits for routine care. The Millennium Health Care Act called for the establishment of eight CBOCs in Washington State, yet only four have been established. As our veteran population ages and becomes increasingly frail, so will the urgency of this issue.

Finally, any restructuring of services must ensure the remaining resources are redirected to areas with the highest need, including reducing waiting times and increasing access to care. Waiting times for some specialty services in Washington State are disproportionately high and with the aging of the veteran population, these services will be in greater demand than ever before.

Through the CARES process the VA has the opportunity to begin addressing the inequities of the past. Collectively, we must ensure that Washington's veterans receive care that is of the highest quality and is responsive to their growing and changing needs.

"We must ensure that Washington's veterans receive care that is of the highest quality."

CARES must re-examine the health care needs of veterans by using accurate population projections – not those based solely on current enrollment in the VA Health Care System. The CARES process must address the growth in Washington State's veteran population by aligning services to meet veterans' health care needs. Whether those services are provided in traditional VA settings, or through innovative partnerships, we must ensure that veterans receive care that is as good or better than the care they receive today.

To serve the needs of our veterans, the VA must reach out and form partnerships with the many willing state and community providers. Already, Washington State provides long-term care

Over the past several months, there have been several newspaper articles trying to make sense of a VA process known as CARES or Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services. The potential for a restructuring of the VA's capital facilities can be unsettling, and I have some concerns about the process. However, I also recognize the potential to not only correct some deep rooted inequities, but also ensure we have a system in place that is strong enough to handle the demands of our growing veteran population.

Through the CARES process, we must correct the inequities Washington's veterans face in the areas of outreach, access to care, and overall availability of care. I presented testimony to the CARES Commission at the Vancouver hearing on September 26 and at the Walla Walla hearing on September 29. My testimony touched on the following areas, and focused on how we can ensure services are available to the 670,628 veterans who call Washington State home.

WDVA Director Re-appointed to Rehabilitation Advisory Committee

John M. King, director of the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA), has been re-appointed to the Veterans' Advisory Committee on Rehabilitation (VACOR) by Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi.

VACOR is a long-standing committee that advises Principi on the rehabilitation needs of disabled veterans, reviews VA programs designed to meet these needs and offers recommendations for improvements.

"When a veteran returns to civilian life, the after effects of military service can be devastating," said King, a Vietnam veteran. "Serving on this advisory committee is a way to help ensure VA is providing the rehabilitative services that our veterans need."

About 2.3 million veterans have medical problems that are connected to their military service. VA offers a wide range of rehabilitative services to help them, including rehabilitation medicine, vocational guidance, vocational rehabilitation, plus specialized employment and training programs.

Washington veterans or their family members can contact 1-800-562-2308 for more information or go to www.dva.wa.gov

Q & A on CARES

CARES stands for Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services. Below are several questions and answers on the Under Secretary for Health's Draft National CARES Plan, from July 2003. There are more Q & A available on the VA web page at: www.va.gov/cares under the "CARES Library".

What are the key elements in the draft National CARES Plan?

VA's mission to provide quality health care for America's veterans has not changed since its inception. Medical advances, modern health care trends, and veteran migrations all have an impact on the medical care landscape. In a dynamic health care environment, VA must plan to embrace change so it can best serve veterans' health care needs in the future.

The draft National CARES Plan identifies gaps where there are imbalances between current infrastructure and future needs. It then makes recommendations to solve these imbalances and assure that VA is best positioned to meet veterans' health care needs into the future. Some of the items included in the plan are:

- Findings from an objective comparison of data on future health care needs current capabilities,
- A comprehensive assessment of the adequacy of all current VA health care delivery system space to meet future health care needs,
- Adopting the Critical Access Hospital Model developed by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services for small facilities as a guide to ensure that quality of care is maintained in the future,
- Description of consolidations and realignments of services and facilities to replace inefficient aged campuses with modern facilities to improve quality and cost effectiveness,
- Exploration of alternative uses of campuses or portions of campuses to benefit veterans through enhanced use leases for uses such as assisted living or other compatible uses. Revenues from those uses would be retained by the VISN for investment in veterans services
- Collaborations between VA and Department of Defense (DoD) to maximize joint utilization of capital resources,
- Description of stakeholder involvement,
- Projected capital requirements to meet the needs identified in the plan, and
- An executive summary for each of the 20 Networks involved.

What did the under secretary for health consider important when deciding what went into the plan?

The under secretary's review was built into the CARES planning process as a deliberate step to pull together 74 draft Market Plans from 20 Networks into a consistent, systematic plan with a national perspective. One of the most important issues was to ensure that the acute care (hospital) infrastructure was balanced against the need to improve access to care. Another key issue was examining campuses with aging infrastructures and, vacant space to determine how they could be more effectively utilized to improve services to veterans. The CARES program office, national veterans service organizations, DoD representatives, teams made up of

headquarters and field employees and a special clinical work group all assisted the under secretary of health in his review.

The number of veterans is declining, why the increased demand for VA?

While it is true that the veteran population is projected to decline in future years, the increased desirability of VA for health care has significantly increased the number of veterans projected to enroll in and use VA services. Veterans are aging and with aging comes an increased demand for health care services. Current demand for VA services has been observed at levels never imagined, for which the system was never designed. This growth for demand has and will continue to occur in the area of outpatient care. Inpatient care demand has remained, and is projected to remain, fairly stable. Resources are limited and VA must maximize its efficiencies from its capital asset inventory.

Why is VA closely reviewing smaller medical centers?

VA has a number of smaller medical centers that provide limited inpatient care to generally small numbers of veterans. Currently, to provide a full continuum of health care to these veterans requires extensive reliance on other community providers or other VA medical centers.

The draft National CARES Plan includes an in-depth review of small facilities, to assure they will play an appropriate role in providing high quality, cost-effective care throughout the VA system. It should be noted that the CARES process only addressed the acute care missions of small facilities and did not address the long-term care or chronic psychiatry missions of VA facilities (see question below for more explanation). Therefore, recommendations refer only to acute care beds.

Nineteen facilities across the country met the small facility criteria. Of those, eight were recommended for closure of acute hospital beds over the next several years. The majority of these facilities are proposing to provide inpatient care through a combination of referrals to another VA medical center and community hospitals. The intention of the acute bed closures is to improve patient outcomes, keep access local, maintain customer satisfaction through better access, and improve cost efficiencies.

Why is VA looking closely at medical centers in close proximity to one another?

VA has limited resources to accomplish its mission. The cost of supporting duplicative inpatient programs in any market is excessive, particularly within health care where the capital and human resource costs are far above the levels found in other areas of commerce. VA believes it has an obligation to the taxpayer to ensure public

resources are used efficiently and effectively. VA's effort to review facilities within close proximity of one another is designed to ensure opportunities for more optimal allocation of resources, programs and services are not overlooked.

There were two components in the planning process for reviewing the potential for realigning services and campuses to improve cost effectiveness and quality of care. The first was "proximity," and identified hospitals located within prescribed distances from one another (60 miles or less). The second component focused on the so-called "Division II" facilities. These are smaller or less active facilities integrated to varying degrees with their larger parent facilities. Recently, this list of facilities caused media attention across the country (see question below).

The National CARES Plan identified 32 facilities that fell within the proximity criteria and 18 that were Division II facilities. After careful review of Network recommendations and additional information, the under secretary proposed that 13 facilities, located across the country, would have major mission changes. (See Chapter 9 of the Plan for specifics.)

Is there a goal for the number of beds VA hopes to close as a result of CARES?

No. There are no goals for overall bed closures. The goal of CARES is to develop a plan for the best national program to serve veterans for the future.

What happens to the money saved from consolidations?

Improved efficiency will allow Networks to do more with whatever funding is appropriated and allocated. While it is premature to speculate on where savings will occur or where future investments will be required, any cost savings not needed for initiatives in a particular Network where they are achieved, will be used to meet other needs within VA's health care system. However revenues from alternative uses of campuses such as assisted living facilities will be retained by the VISNs to invest in services for veterans.

Does CARES take into account the veterans returning from Iraq?

The CARES process is being conducted using the most recent veteran data available. The workload projections, used to determine demand and access, are based on DoD Force Strength Projections, which have not been adjusted for the future because of 9-11 and the war. Nonetheless, on the advice of independent outside experts who specialize in preparing health care models, objective standards and data were developed that were used nationwide and evaluated consistently across the country. The draft National Plan includes estimated health care needs for all veterans, including those who are in combat today, just as it does for those who fought in past wars and armed conflicts.

Medicine That Doesn't Come in a Bottle



Help Hospitalized Veterans provides “medicine that doesn’t come in a bottle” with Therapeutic Arts and Crafts Kits.

HHV has been serving American veterans and the military community for 32 years by providing therapeutic Arts and Crafts Kits, free of charge, to hospitalized veterans.

In 1970, Roger Chapin, founder of an organization that had sent 600,000 Gift Pacs to G.I.s in Vietnam, was visiting wounded Marines at the Balboa Naval Hospital in San Diego. Chapin asked if there was anything he could do for them and was told “ give me something to do with my hands.” Help Hospitalized Veterans was born - and the first Arts and Crafts Kits were delivered.

“As soon as we saw all the smiling faces when the first Kits were handed out, we knew we had a winner,” said Chapin. All that remained was to see if the American people would respond as generously and caringly as they did to Chapin’s Vietnam Gift Pac project.

On Monday, August 25, 2003, the Honorable Anthony J. Principi, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, presented HHV’s 20 millionth therapeutic Arts and Crafts Kit to a hospitalized veteran at the VA Medical Center, San Diego.

In recent years, HHV has gone beyond shipping Kits to just VA hospitals nationwide. HHV now ships to over 300 facilities, including many state veterans’ nursing homes and active duty military hospitals worldwide.



Veterans at the Washington Veterans Home at Retsil, the Washington Soldiers Home and Colony in Orting, and the Spokane Veterans Home have been receiving the benefit of these kits for a number of years. Activity personnel at all three homes rely on the kits for craft

classes, and have come to depend on the quality and variety of projects they offer to residents.

“They are really well put together,” said recreation specialist Tami Reuters. “Everything to complete a project is always there and the residents really love them.”

Kits include dream catchers, over 25 different painting kits, more than 50 different wood building kits, 25 different ceramics kits, and the list goes on and on.

“These Craft Kits come as a welcome reminder to America’s wonderful veterans that our nation continues to honor those that have sacrificed their time away from their families, injury to their bodies and, in too many cases their lives. HHV is proud to play a significant role in assisting the Department of Veterans Affairs in accomplishing its mission of service to those who have served, as HHV continues to pledge its service to our nation’s heroes... our veterans,” said Mike Lynch, HHV Executive Director.

To learn more about opportunities to volunteer or donate to HHV, visit www.HHV.org

Craft Kits Help Home Residents Reach Rehabilitation Goal

Alan Padgett spends hours working on woodworking projects, dream catchers, sun catchers, drawings and paintings. Many of the completed works of art decorate his room in Roosevelt Barracks at the Washington Soldiers Home and Colony in Orting.

His prize-winning creation is a pinewood derby that he carved to replicate an old firetruck, complete with details of hoses and ladders. Padgett entered it in the recent Orting Pinewood Derby contest, where he walked away with 1st place in the races and the overall Grand Prize.



Padgett served in the U.S. Army from 1953 to 1962 as an engineer and left the military with a rank of Sgt. 1st class. His next four years were spent with the Seattle Fire Dept and from there his career took him into the field of construction, where his last nine years found him working

as a Superintendent/Inspector of construction in South Dakota.

Then, an auto accident left him with a broken back, unable to walk or take care of himself.

For months Padgett was in a South Dakota VA nursing home, until his daughter – who lives in Kent – was able to relocate him to WSH in the nursing care unit.

Today, Padgett is getting around with the help of a walker or cane, and keeps himself busy by taking advantage of the many arts and crafts projects that Help Hospitalized Veterans makes available to veterans at state nursing homes and VA hospitals around the world.

“I can’t imagine what it would be like without these projects,” said Padgett, as he displayed a number of craft kits in varying stages of completion.

“They keep me busy and bring a lot of pride and satisfaction,” he continued. “Plus, they’re helping me get closer to my goal of being able to leave here by Thanksgiving.”

Padgett plans to donate his grand-prize fire truck to the Orting Fire Department as a way of saying “thank you” for all they do for the community.

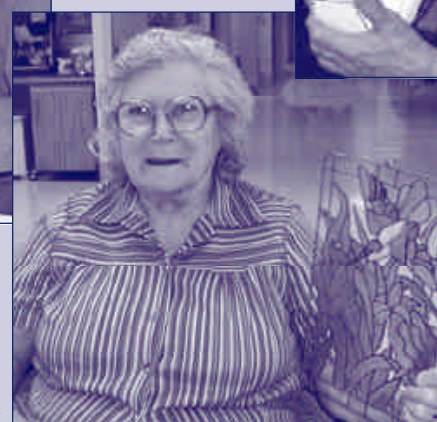
Alan Padgett shows grand-prize winning firetruck and explains materials used to create ladders.



WWII Navy veteran Bill Crume puts finishing touches on a plaster painting.



WWII Navy veteran Bernie Reynolds works on a wooden display clock.



(right) WWII AAF veteran Libby Rothstein shows off a completed suncatcher.

November is...

Veterans History Awareness Month

Honoring WWII Vets in National Registry of Remembrances

As part of the state's first Veterans' History Awareness Month, WDVA is registering all WWII veterans residing at the three State Veterans Homes in the National WWII Memorial Registry of Remembrances.

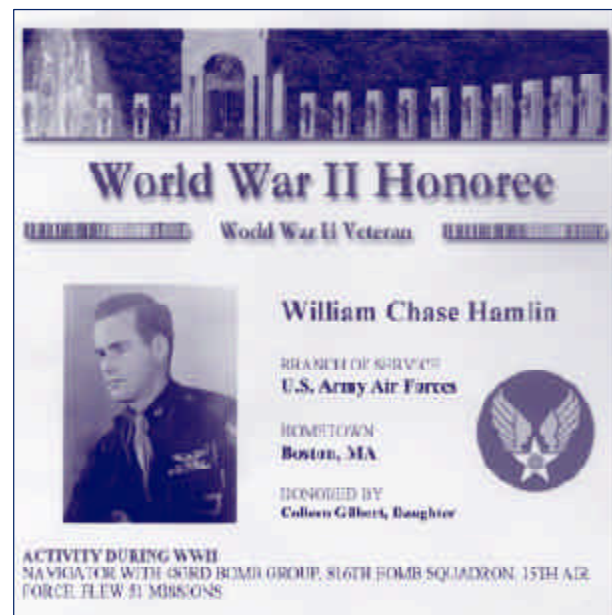
Passed during the 2003 Legislative session, a new section added to chapter 73.04 RCW declares November of each year to be known as veterans' history awareness month; designates the week in November in which veterans day occurs as a time for people in the state to celebrate the contributions to the state of its veterans; and encourages educational institutions, public entities and private organizations to

designate time for appropriate activities in commemoration of the contributions of America's veterans.

WWII Veterans Encouraged to Register

Anyone who helped win the war, either a veteran or an American on the home front, is eligible for the Registry of Remembrances.

Registration is free and can be entered via the internet or by mail.



★ ★ ★ REGISTRY OF REMEMBRANCES ★ ★ ★

Title/Rank: _____
*Honoree Name: _____
*Honoree Status: (check one) ☐ World War II Veteran ☐ Civilian on the Home Front ☐ Killed in World War II
*Hometown: _____ *State: _____
Branch of Service: (check one) ☐ Air Force ☐ Army ☐ Marine Corps
☐ Navy ☐ Coast Guard ☐ Merchant Marine
Honoree's Wartime Activity: _____
Your relationship to Honoree: _____
*Your Name: _____
*Your Address: _____
*City: _____ *State: _____ *Zip Code: _____

There is no fee to add a name to the Registry. There is a fee, however, to add a photo or receive a certificate. See next section on adding a photograph to the record of the person you are honoring or to purchase a certificate listing the name of the person you are honoring.

Questions? Please call the World War II Memorial Processing Center at 1-800-639-4992.

Website Entry

To enter a name via the WWII memorial website, go to www.wwiimemorial.com and click on the "WWII Registry" button on the left and follow the online instructions. You will receive an e-mail confirming registration of the name you enter, and a second e-mail confirmation when your entry is available for viewing on the website, as well as instructions for adding a photograph to your record, if you wish.

Mail Entry

Complete the form to the left (Please note required fields marked by *. One copy for each name entered). and mail to: WWII Memorial Processing Center, P.O. Box 305, Calverton, NY 11933.

★ ★ ★ NATIONAL World War II MEMORIAL ★ ★ ★

Photo Processing Center • P.O. Box 305 • Calverton, NY 11933

- ☐ **YES**, I'm sending a copy of a photograph to include with the name I've entered in the Registry of Remembrances. I am enclosing a processing fee of \$10.
- ☐ **YES**, I would like to receive an official Registry of Remembrances Certificate listing the name of the person I am honoring. I am enclosing a processing fee of \$5 for each Certificate ordered.

Total amount due: \$ _____. Please make check payable to: **World War II Memorial**

Charge my credit card: ☐ MasterCard ☐ VISA ☐ American Express

Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

Please mail my Certificate to (if other than address shown)

Mr./Mrs./Family of: _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Adding a Photograph or Purchasing a Certificate

You may include a photograph - WWII era or more recent - as part of the entry (one per honoree) with a processing fee of \$10.00 per photo. Send print copies only. Prints, CDs or diskettes will not be returned.

Official Registry Certificates, suitable for framing, may be purchased for \$5.00 per Certificate ordered.

Washington State World War II Memorial



Washington State dedicated its World War II Memorial in May, 1999. Located on the main Capitol Campus, it pays tribute to more than 5,800 Washington residents who gave their lives.

To learn more about the memorial, visit www.ga.wa.gov/visitor/ww2/ww2.htm.

WDVA Receives Grant Renewals for Homeless Veterans

\$550,000 received to fund two programs – one for women veterans – for 2003

The Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) has received notice from the federal Department of Labor – Veterans Employment and Training Services (USDOL) – that grant money for the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Project (HVRP) and grant renewal for the Homeless Women Veterans Reintegration Project (HWVRP) have been approved for 2003.

The \$300,000 HVRP grant, and the \$249,595 HWVRP grant are designed for the Seattle metropolitan area and the

surrounding Puget Sound Region of King, Pierce, Thurston, Snohomish and Kitsap counties. Both grants are reviewed annually to ensure the attainment of goals agreed upon by the USDOL and the WDVA.

“The receipt of the HVRP and HWVRP grants allows WDVA to provide essential services to homeless veterans. The grants focus on those veterans committed to making permanent changes in their lives and give veterans a hand-up on toward reintegrating into their communities,” said

John King, WDVA director.

WDVA’s Homeless Veterans Reintegration Projects provide an opportunity to strengthen all homeless veteran programs operating within the service delivery area.

Veterans needing assistance should call Steven Gill or Barbara Logan at 1-800-562-2308.

Success – one person at a time.....

By Barbara Logan, Homeless Women Veterans Reintegration Project (HWVRP) coordinator for Pierce, Thurston and Kitsap counties

As a coordinator for the Homeless Women Veterans Reintegration Project (HWVRP), I wanted to share a success story made possible by the HWVRP grant received by WDVA.

In late December, 2002, I received a call from a young woman living in a Tacoma shelter. At 22, she had served in the Navy for a year and a half and had been homeless for nearly a year. She had lost her job due to some criminal activity, and was trying to put her life back together.

Suffering from PTSD and depression, she was not able to obtain treatment at the VA Medical Center because she did not have over 2 years of service, which is a requirement for treatment after 1990.

Because a traumatic event that occurred in the military exacerbated a pre-existing condition of PTSD from childhood, a claim for PTSD was filed on her behalf.

She was then referred to Veterans Independent Enterprises of Washington (VIEW) where she lived for a few months, but felt she didn’t fit in because of her age. From VIEW, she was referred to a transitional housing provider where she found safe housing and employment in the local area.

She was recently awarded 50% service-connection for PTSD and received a retroactive benefit back to June of 2000 for \$23,500.00. Now entitled to medical treatment from the VA and back on her medication, she was able to get her previous job back as a Certified Nursing Assistant at a large hospital. She is interested in pursuing Vocational Rehabilitation through the VA and would like to become a counselor for young girls.

If you are a woman who served on active duty in the military and are in need of assistance, or if you know of one, please call:

Pierce, Thurston, or Kitsap Counties: Barbara Logan 1-800-562-2308

King and Snohomish Counties: Pat Johnson 1-206-205-5619

VIEW: www.veteransworkshop.org/ 1-800-748-6856

POW/MIA Recognition Day Honoring those who remain missing



(Right)
Darrell Pilat, president of the Washington State POW/MIA Concerned Citizens Association, watches as Leroy Kinne, VFW state POW/MIA chairman lights a candle during the POW/MIA ceremony held Sept. 19 on the Capitol Campus in Olympia. During the ceremony, visitors lit candles to memorialize POWs and MIAs in World War II, the Korean War, Cold War, Vietnam War and Persian Gulf War. Two years ago, a candle was added to remember the more than 3,000 people killed in the Sept. 11 attacks, many of whom were veterans.

The National day of recognition, held annually since 1979, serves to honor those held captive or who remain missing and reminds citizens of efforts to bring them home.



Jim Grissom Elected National Secretary of Vietnam Veterans of America



Jim Grissom of Coeur D'Alene, Idaho, was elected National Secretary of Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) at the organization's Eleventh National Convention in St. Louis. VVA is the nation's only congressionally chartered veteran's service organization dedicated to the needs of Vietnam War-era veterans and their families. Grissom, who served as an infantryman in the U.S. Army in the Vietnam War, previously sat on VVA's Board of Directors representing one of the organization's nine national regions. Grissom has been an active member of the organization since he joined VVA Chapter 686 in Moses Lake, Washington, in 1996. He has served as Membership Chair, Vice President and President of VVA's Washington State Council. In 2001 he was elected as VVA Region 8 Director and has served on the organization's national Veterans Benefits Committee for four years. Three other national officers also were elected. They are: Thomas H. Corey, President; Edward Chow, Vice President; and Alan Cook, Treasurer. (Source: VVA Press Release – Aug. 19, 2003)

Women in the Military

This Veterans Day is an important time to remember the nearly 1½ million women veterans in America. Chicken for the Nurse's Soul offers this story to honor those who serve our profession and our country so gallantly. For their service then, now, and forever, we thank all those who sustain and defend our freedom.
LeAnn Thieman, co-author Chicken Soup for the Nurse's Soul

The first military women to arrive in VietNam were nurses, in 1956. As the American presence in Southeast Asia grew, so too did the number of young women who served. In all, nearly eight thousand military women were there, along with thousands more who served in the civilian sector.

Eighty-three percent of us were nurses, the rest held positions in special services, supply, air traffic control, cartography, the USO, American Red Cross, and many other jobs in support of our combat troops. We were all fairly young when we volunteered to serve our country. And many of us were woefully naive in believing our recruiters' promises; mainly that we could be stationed anywhere in the world that we wanted, and that VietNam was "strictly voluntary."

Still, when our orders arrived sending us to war, most of us believed in our hearts that we were needed, that what we were doing was important, and that it was our duty to go. We did our jobs, facing the perils of enemy fire, horrific heat and humidity, disease, insects, isolation, long work hours and sleepless nights. Then we managed to pull ourselves together, dab some perfume behind our ears, and do it all again the next day.

We learned a lot about ourselves. We discovered our strengths, and tried to survive our weaknesses. We were ordinary young women trying to function in the most extraordinary of circumstances; dealing in life and death and seeking not just to urvive, but to understand.

We did the best we could with who we were and what we had. And daily we collected our memories, and stored them away someplace safe, out of our conscious minds where we thought, "I'll deal with this later."

And after a year, we came home, back to "The World." In one plane ride we went from war to peace. In one year we had gone from childhood to irrevocable adulthood. We knew we had changed, that our lives

would never be the same, and that we could never explain any of it to the folks back home. We couldn't, and we didn't. For as unacceptable as it was for the guys to talk about the war when they came home, no one wanted to acknowledge that young women had been there. Even as the Women's Movement was making its voice heard, the underlying message was clear: "nice girls wouldn't have gone to war."

So we came home quietly, went back to our homes, our families, our jobs and never spoke about the war to anybody. Many of us quit nursing, and never knew why. Some of us had recurring nightmares, flashbacks, unexplained illnesses, depression, or abused drugs or alcohol. Many women applied themselves with a fury to school, attaining one degree after another, to work, rising to the top leadership positions in their companies, to their church, their social organizations, their families--anything to avoid the memories they had stored away "to think about later." The memories had created a deep impenetrable wound that needed to be healed.

In 1982 the initial healing ground was laid, in the form of the VietNam Veterans Memorial-The Wall. The women, just like men who had served, were drawn to it. The healing power of that sacred place is evident to all who have been there. We could go to The Wall, and mourn, and cry, and reach out for comfort if we chose, and yet it was so easy to be invisible there.

Women simply weren't recognized as veterans.

Then, on Veterans Day 1993 the Vietnam Women's Memorial is dedicated in Washington D.C. Thousands of women vets attend and we are overwhelmed. We lead



the parade; the nurses, Red Cross workers, entertainers, women who worked in administration, logistics, and intelligence. The streets are lined with people applauding and crying. A vet sits high up in a tree yelling "Thank You! Thank You!" A man in a flight suit stands for over two hours at attention, saluting as the women pass by. People hand us flowers and hug us. One GI has a picture of his nurse taken "July 1964." He is trying to find her.

We find each other. We know, at last, that we are not alone; that we are not crazy or paranoid, but that we have a lot of work to do in order to heal. We talk to each other and find comfort as well as pain in our words and our tears. Words and tears, that now, finally we share. Now, after so many years, the process has finally begun, and we hold each other close, and say "Welcome Home!"

Janis Nark, Lt. Col.,U.S.A.R. (Ret.)

Chicken Soup for the Nurse's Soul co-author, LeAnn Thieman, is a nationally acclaimed professional speaker, author and nurse. To learn more about this book or her speaking presentations see her website at www.LeAnnThieman.com , or call her toll-free at 1-877-THIEMAN.

Washington State Veterans Homes

Rotary’s answer to wheelchair shortage: ‘Let’s roll’

By KATHLEEN MERRYMAN; The News Tribune

The best rides at the Puyallup Fair on Wednesday were not on the midway. They were on the Aqua Rec Showplace stage, where members of the Rotary Club of Puyallup outfitted nearly 30 people with new wheelchairs.

Veterans from the Soldiers Home in Orting rolled away in them.

A grandmother with post-polio syndrome and a mom with multiple sclerosis saw the fair in them.

And Joe Poliak’s world opened up in one of them.

It was the culmination of two years of work, muscled by the club and managed largely by members Heidi and Jim Smith. The club committed to raise the money for three containers of wheelchairs - 720 in all, 240 each to be delivered to Morocco, China and Puyallup.

Members extracted money from their own pockets and those of their friends in that amiable way Rotarians have perfected. They invited other outfits to piggyback on their project. Good Samaritan Hospital funded 80 chairs. Dally Construction paid for 25. Riverside Ford in Sumner bought a dozen, and Apple Physical Therapy paid for 11. Kids at Concordia Lutheran School aimed at 18 chairs and hit 34. Children at DuPont’s Chloe Clark Elementary School held a penny drive and bought eight chairs.

It’s a nearly irresistible deal: \$75 puts a person in a chair.

The Rotarians took care of their international obligations before bringing the effort home to men like James Drake, who served in World War II and Korea, and now suffers from service-related disabilities. He lives at the Soldiers Home in Orting where he was one of 40 residents to get a new chair.

“People like James, who have served in two wars, I think it’s the least we can do to give them a new wheelchair,” Chris Lewis, Wheelchair Foundation’s development director, told the crowd.

If, as a nation, we don’t choose to keep our veterans and military families in decent, functional wheelchairs, then we as individuals should step up and do it. It’s a matter of honor.

For now, thanks to the wheelchair team, the Orting home has the chairs it needs, said recreational therapy director Lynn Zemke.

Need a wheelchair? Contact the heroes at Rotary Club of Puyallup, PO Box 797, Puyallup, 98371. They want to give you the ride of your life.

New Superintendent Selected for Orting



Jonathon Clontz has been named superintendent of the Washington Soldiers Home and Colony in Orting effective July 31, 2003.

John M. King, director of the Washington State Department

of Veterans Affairs (WDVA), announced the appointment following confirmation by Governor Gary Locke.

"One of the challenges in filling positions at this level," said King "is finding well-qualified individuals who will bring a wide variety of healthcare and long-term care experience, as well as administrative knowledge, to this job."

Clontz, a veteran of the U.S. Army, has nearly ten years of experience in healthcare and long-term care, managing high acuity,

sub-acute and medically complex care issues. "I am confident this individual will enhance our ability to meet the challenges of the future, while protecting the dignity of our residents," King said.

Jonathon Clontz was born at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas - one of his father’s duty stations during his 22-year military career. Following in his father’s footsteps, Jon joined the Army in 1982, serving until 1989 at a number of bases throughout the United States and Korea. In July of 1989, he made the decision to leave the Army and pursue his education at Saint Martin’s College, in Olympia. He received a degree in Psychology in 1993, continued with graduate courses in Behavioral Psychology; he is currently pursuing a law degree.

Jon has held various positions in the health care industry ranging from social worker to marketing and sales. Jon also served as the Associate Administrator and Administrator/Executive Director at several facilities. He received Alzheimer Care Certification in 2002.

He is a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, American College of Healthcare Administrators, and the Washington Healthcare Association.

Ft. Flagler camping trip 2003

By Catherine Shaw, WVH Activities Director

Thanks to generous donations from VFW Post 8870, American Legion Post 68 and the Kitsap Women Bowlers Association, residents of the Washington Veterans Home and Soldiers Home had the opportunity to participate in a three day camping trip at Ft. Flagler State Park, near Port Townsend.

Thirty residents, including four from the Soldiers Home, left Retsil at 10:00 am on a sunny September morning. By the time they arrived at the campsite, staff and volunteers had lunch ready and waiting! Joining the camp that afternoon were Linda Deleo and her father Bonzo Deleo, both from the Port Townsend Elks # 317; Peggy Luxton, her husband Roy, veterans chairman; Eric Apadoca and his wife, from Aberdeen Elks # 593; and Harlan



Mr. and Mrs. Apadoca.



Doreen Hendrick of the Am. Legion Aux. helps residents with Bingo.

and Elsie Harles, all the way from the Ocean Shores Elks. Residents settled in while some tried their hand at fishing. Seems the bullheads were the only thing biting! For dinner that evening we had homemade pizzas, SUPER Supremes. Volunteer Roger Pearson donated funds for the pizzas. After dinner we dined on strawberry shortcake donated by the Ocean Shores Elks. Following dinner the group had a great trivia contest with every resident participating and winning several great prizes.

Tuesday dawned sunny and clear. After breakfast Lloyd and Doreen Hendrick from American Legion Post #68 joined the group. Doreen brought homemade banana and zucchini bread for the campers to enjoy. Later in the morning we held a blackjack contest while others went fishing or beachcombing.

For lunch, the Port Townsend American Legion Auxiliary brought a wonderful potluck meal and then sponsored a cash bingo which was very popular with the residents!

That afternoon we were joined by our superintendent Jerry Towne, who stayed for the evening meal of steaks



(R to L) Catherine Shaw, Elsie Harlis, Linda Delao, Peggy Luxton and Mrs. Apadoca make up several Supreme pizzas.



Jerry enjoys just one more piece of pizza.

Continued...

Washington State Veterans Homes

Ft. Flagler Continued

provided by the Port Townsend Elks. Roy Luxton of the Aberdeen Elks made Dutch oven peach cobbler, served with homemade ice cream. After dinner we traditionally have a men vs women pictionary contest, but because the women have won six years in a row we decided to try a different contest, a guess the famous person game. Participated in by staff, volunteers and residents it was a loud and competitive contest. Thankfully the women pulled it off and kept the title, giving them seven years of straight wins. The men vow to pull it off next year!

Wednesday morning dawned as gray and cloudy as everyone's attitude. Nobody was ready to return home! Breakfast of French Toast, homemade hashbrowns, ham and eggs to order helped to lift everyone's spirits.

With all the volunteer help camp was quickly cleaned and busses were loaded. We stopped by Kitsap Memorial Park on the way home, where several members of the Port Townsend American Legion were waiting for us with homemade cookies. Shortly after our return the skies opened up and the rain came. We were all glad it held off until our return!

On behalf of WDVA, thank you to all the volunteers and staff who donated their time and resources to make this memorable trip possible!

Air Force Personnel "Do the Puyallup" with Home Residents

For over 15 years, active duty and reservists from McChord Air Force Base have been escorting the Soldiers Home residents on their annual trip to the Western Washington Fair (Puyallup Fair). Arriving early in the morning when the gates first open, each resident and their escort, sometimes two depending on the number of volunteers, traipse around the fair grounds, viewing whatever the resident desires. Most head for the scones or elephant ears first to get started on sampling all the food items. Some head for the barns to see their favorite animals. One resident couldn't wait for the rides to begin. Everyone had a great day and went home with new friends and wonderful memories.



Dr. Mamerto receives Certification

The Board of Directors of the American Medical



Directors Certification Program (AMDCP) recently announced that Bless Mamerto, MD has been granted the title of Certified Medical Director in Long Term Care (CMD).

The Certified Medical Director in Long Term Care program was created to enhance the profession of medical direction throughout the long term care continuum (e.g., nursing facilities, hospice, subacute care), and to reinforce the leadership role of the medical director in providing quality care. The CMD program recognizes the dual clinical and administrative roles of the medical director and requires indicators of competence in both areas. The dual nature of the skills needed makes the position of medical director unique in medicine.

Mamerto – one of 91 physicians completing the CMD requirements in 2003 – serves as WDVA's Medical Director under the guidance of Assistant Director Alfie Alvarado.

Straight Street Talk

With the Soldiers Home Residents and Air Force Personnel

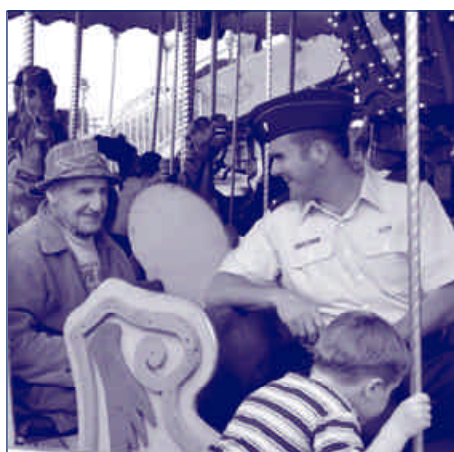
Residents: "What do you like best about the Fair?"

AF Personnel: "Why did you volunteer for this duty today?"



"I enjoy visiting with older folks, you can learn a lot."

--SSgt Tracy Lay



"I like the rides!"

--George Gardner

"I volunteered today as one way to show respect for fellow veterans."

--1st Lt Brian Hawes



"I enjoy taking the residents out for a fun day at the fair. This is the fourth year I've been coming."

--SSgt Luis Trumbo



"I like looking at the draft horses the best, especially the ones named Bob."

--Bob Carlyle escorted by Bob Spandley

VA Q's & A's
September 2003

Editor's Note: Following are typical questions answered daily by VA counselors. Full information is available at any VA office.

Q. Is it true that veterans from the fighting in Afghanistan and the recent Gulf War can only receive VA health care for two years?

A. No, that is not true. Since Nov. 11, 1998, VA has offered a special benefit to newly discharged combat veterans. Under the new program, these veterans can receive free VA health care for conditions that may be related to their military service for two years after discharge from the military. They may be charged copayments for non-service-related care. This benefit waives VA's customary requirement that veterans prove a connection between a current medical problem and their military service, or show that they fall below an income threshold.

At the end of that two-year period, these veterans will be treated like combat veterans from earlier conflicts. They can apply for enrollment in VA's health care system. There is no copayment for veterans with medical care related to service-connected problems or for veterans with limited resources.

Q. Besides health care, what other benefits do combat veterans receive?

A. The newest generation of combat veterans receives the same benefits traditionally associated with military service. That includes disability compensation for those with service-connected health problems, VA pensions for veterans with limited incomes, VA home loan guarantees and educational assistance for those who contributed to the Montgomery GI Bill while in the military.

Other governmental agencies have their own benefits for veterans. The federal government and many state, territory and local governments have a hiring preference for veterans. Additional state benefits are available for veterans. For more information, see <http://www.va.gov/partners/stateoffice>.

Q. Do military service members who die during Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom receive special treatment for burial?

A. Service members who die on active duty are eligible for burial at Arlington National Cemetery. They are also eligible for burial in any of the national cemeteries operated by VA. Regardless of burial location, VA will provide a headstone or marker for the deceased's grave. If the remains of the deceased are cremated and placed in a niche in a stone wall called a columbarium, VA will furnish a niche marker. Veterans who die of any cause may receive military honors on request, with funeral directors generally contacting the Department of Defense on behalf of the family.

(Source: U.S. DVA – Sept. 3, 2003)

**Micronesian Soldier Wounded in Iraq
Becomes U.S. Citizen**

Veterans Affairs Secretary Anthony J. Principi took part in a special ceremony today making Army Specialist Hilario Bermanis of the 82nd Airborne Division a U.S. citizen.

"This young soldier serves as a true example of sacrifice to a nation that today he can call his own," Principi said. "He gave of himself so that others could have a better tomorrow. The Department of Veterans Affairs will be there for Specialist Bermanis and thousands of other brave men and women returning home from harm's way."

Bermanis lost both legs and his left hand during an attack on June 10 in Baghdad while he and a fellow soldier, who was killed instantly, were guarding a weapons turn-in point. He was awarded the Bronze Star for his conduct in action and a Purple Heart for his injuries.

A citizen of the Federated States of Micronesia, Bermanis enlisted in the Army three years ago. Today, his parents and five-year-old brother witnessed the oath ceremony at Walter Reed Army Medical Center along with Secretary Principi; Secretary Tom Ridge of the Department of Homeland Defense; and Peter M. Christian, speaker of the Micronesian Congress. Maj. Gen. Kevin C. Kiley, Walter Reed commander, also attended.

On July 3, 2002, President Bush issued Executive Order 13269 providing naturalization for aliens and non-citizen nationals serving on active duty in the U.S. armed forces during Operation Enduring Freedom, from September 11, 2001, to a date not yet determined.

September 17 was designated Citizenship Day in 1952 by President Harry Truman. The anniversary was established to focus on the rights and responsibilities of U.S. citizens, both native-born and naturalized.

(Source: U.S. DVA News Release – Sept. 17, 2003)



**Veterans Showcase Talent at National Veterans
Creative Arts Festival**

Veterans from across the country will be in Oklahoma City, Oct. 6-12, for the 2003 National Veterans Creative Arts Festival. The festival is the culmination of a year-long fine arts competition open to all veterans receiving care at Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical facilities.

At the 2003 Festival, more than 120 talented veterans, first-place winners selected from nearly 3,000 competitors nationwide, will be in Oklahoma City for a week of workshops and rehearsals. The week will culminate on Sunday, Oct. 12, with a stage show and art exhibit at the Rose State College Performing Arts Center in Midwest City, Okla.

Beginning at 2 p.m., the music, drama and dance performers will showcase their talent at the stage show, accompanied by a professional orchestra. Artists will exhibit their work in the lobby of the Rose State College Performing Arts Center after the stage show.

The festival is co-sponsored by VA, the American Legion Auxiliary and Help Hospitalized Veterans. This year it is hosted by the Oklahoma City VA Medical Center.

For further information, contact Kim Byers, public affairs coordinator for the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival, at (734) 761-7824 or visit www.va.gov/vetevent/caf/2003.

(Source: U.S. DVA News Release – Sept. 16, 2003)



Dr. Leo Mackay Steps Down as VA Deputy Secretary

Dr. Leo S. Mackay Jr. announced his resignation as the Deputy Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), effective September 30.

Mackay was confirmed by the Senate on May 24, 2001, for VA's second-highest post. He oversaw the day-to-day operations of the department, which has a budget of nearly \$60 billion and 224,000 employees.

Among his accomplishments are the establishment of a Joint Executive Committee with the Department of Defense to coordinate senior-level policies, strengthening of a "national shrine commitment" to improve VA-run national cemeteries, and improvements in the department's procurement, finance and computer-based operations.

Mackay has accepted a position with ACS, Inc., of Dallas. The firm provides business process and information technology outsourcing services. He will assume a senior executive position in its health care solutions business in Atlanta.

A graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and the Navy's "Top Gun" training program, Mackay was a vice president of Bell Helicopter Textron before coming to VA. (Source: U.S. DVA News Release – Sept. 15, 2003)

VA Launches New Minority Research Training Efforts

In a move to strengthen the contributions of minority researchers to biomedical and clinical research, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has announced several new efforts to increase scientific career opportunities for under-represented minorities.

With an overall goal of enhancing research opportunities for minorities and increasing funding for minority-serving institutions, the initiative calls for three new mentoring programs:

Supporting institutional collaborations between VA and minority-serving institutions, involving students and faculty from these institutions partnered with VA mentors.

Providing applied training in research on VA-funded projects to participants ranging from high school students and college undergraduates, to graduates and pre-doctoral students.

Offering a supportive career path for mentored research within VA for people who have completed their clinical fellowships or doctoral training within the last two years. The program provides a full salary to awardees for three years.

The Deputy Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, Dr. Leo S. Mackay Jr., noted that VA's new mentor programs are modeled after successful programs offered by the National Institutes of Health and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

The mentoring programs will partner VA medical centers with historically black colleges and universities, Hispanic-serving institutions, tribal colleges and universities, and other institutions with sizeable concentrations of Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, native Hawaiians and Alaska natives.

Projected to cost about \$6 million annually, the program is scheduled to begin in April 2004.

(Source: U.S. DVA News Release – Sept. 15, 2003)

VA To Contract Management Of Foreclosed Properties

Following a two-year effort to compare private-sector offers with its in-house operations, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will contract out the management of foreclosed properties it acquires under its home loan program to Ocwen Federal Saving Bank of West Palm Beach, Fla.

When a veteran with a VA-guaranteed loan defaults, VA may be forced to acquire the home and then must ensure upkeep of the premises and market it for resale.

VA estimates that through the end of 2007, Ocwen's services will reduce the government's costs by more than \$14 million compared to in-house operations, a 15 percent savings. Ocwen will derive its revenue under the contract based on the volume of properties it processes.

The decision to contract the management and sales of foreclosed properties is part of the Administration's "competitive sourcing initiative," a key part of President Bush's management agenda calling for a market-based government embracing competition, innovation and choice. The process to compete in-house services with offers from private industry also is known as an A-76 review, named for the Office of Management and Budget circular that governs the cost-comparison study.

The transition from VA in-house staff to Ocwen will take place over five months. Meanwhile, VA has employee transition plans to help find new jobs in VA for the workers currently associated with the functions being transferred.

Officials are optimistic that most or all employees will have an opportunity to take job openings in other programs administered by their regional offices, and some new openings will be created to provide oversight of the Ocwen contract.

VA began the current fiscal year with nearly 12,000 properties in its inventory. Last year it sold about 16,000 properties.

Overall, VA has more than 2.8 million active home loans. When a veteran with a VA-guaranteed home loan is in financial distress, VA tries to assist the veteran with counseling and may work with lenders on refinancing or other solutions to avoid foreclosure.

(Source: U.S. DVA News Release – Aug. 28, 2003)

VA Strategic Plan Drives Budget Request

Building upon progress in improving services to veterans and upgrading business processes, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) today issued its long-term strategic plan that will drive budget proposals through 2008.

"This plan, and the governance process we have established, will serve as the cornerstone of our efforts to strengthen overall management, accountability and stewardship of resources," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi.

The VA strategic plan establishes detailed goals, objectives, performance targets and outcome measurements focused on both immediate priorities and long-term goals. It also aligns the department's administrative branches under a single business model anchored in President Bush's management agenda.

VA's strategic plan reinforces the department's long-term goal of delivering world-class services to veterans and their families. Among its primary goals are: restoring the capability of disabled veterans and improving the quality of their lives; ensuring a smooth transition from active military service to civilian life; honoring veterans in life and memorializing them in death; and contributing to public health and emergency management.

Last year, VA spent \$23 billion treating 4.6 million veterans and provided compensation benefits totaling \$25 billion to 2.4 million veterans, dependents and survivors.

To download a copy of the VA strategic plan, visit the VA Web site at http://www.va.gov/budget/plan/FY2004_Congressional_Performance_Plan.pdf

(Source: U.S. DVA News Release – Aug. 25, 2003)

VA Announces Homeless Program Per Diem Awards

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) identified recipients of up to \$8 million in per diem awards as part of VA's Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program. Recipients are community and faith-based organizations, as well as state and local governments that provide critical services to homeless veterans.

The 44 separate awards just announced will help offset the operating expenses of existing programs that provide supported housing or services for homeless veterans in 25 states. The awardees were selected in a competitive process from approximately 150 applications. VA provides separate grants for capital projects involving new construction or renovation of existing facilities.

Seven awards were to providers in five states VA had targeted as areas where homeless veterans' needs are most underserved. The selected programs are located in Idaho, Kansas,

The selected programs will receive up to \$26.95 per day for each eligible veteran provided care. Approximately 30 percent of the award recipients are faith-based providers. A complete listing of award recipients and the locations where homeless veterans receive services is provided below.

In addition to the grant and per diem program, VA administers special health care assistance programs that offer clinical outreach, case management and rehabilitation programs for homeless veterans and conducts outreach to provide benefits counseling and referrals to other VA programs.

In the past nine years, VA's Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program has awarded nearly 315 grants totaling \$63 million to public and nonprofit groups to establish transitional housing and service centers and to purchase vans to provide transportation to services and employment for homeless veterans. The entire program has awarded grants to organizations in 48 states and the District of Columbia. With the addition of this per diem award, the program now supports nearly 7,000 beds that are available to homeless veterans.

More information about VA's Homeless Assistance Programs and Initiatives can be found at <http://www.va.gov/homeless> on the Internet.

(Source: U.S. DVA News Release – Aug. 6, 2003)

Hats
Off

EX-POWs celebrate privilege of being an American by sharing Flags

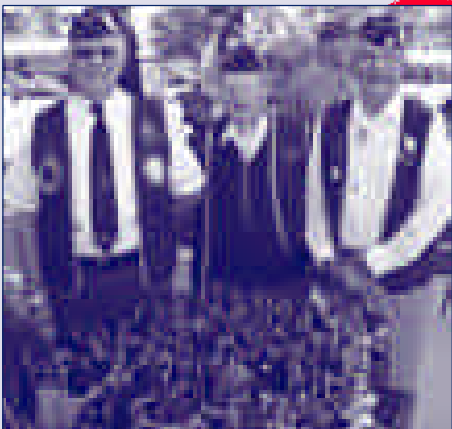
The Tacoma Chapter of American EX-POWs spent the summer assembling and delivering over 600 flag kits to veterans at The Washington State Veterans Home in Retsil, The Washington State Soldiers Home and Colony in Orting, the American Lake VA and Manor Care Home.

The tabletop kits, consisting of an American flag, a POW/MIA flag and a base holder, are intended for display in each veteran's room.

WDVA sends a warm thank-you to all members of the Tacoma Chapter of American EX-POWs.



Joe Zelazny puts final touches on flag kits.



AX-POWs attended the annual family picnic at the Orting Soldiers Home and presented 180 flag kits.



RELEASE OF NEW STAMP ON 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ARMISTICE PAYS TRIBUTE TO KOREAN WAR VETERANS



The U.S. Postal Service honored Korean War veterans on July 27, 2003, as it unveiled a new first-class stamp depicting the Korean War Veterans Memorial on the Mall in Washington, D.C.

The photograph on this stamp, taken by John W. Alli of Catonsville, Md., shows the statues at the Korean War Veterans Memorial shrouded in heavy snow. Alli took this photograph just before dawn during a snowstorm in Washington, D.C., in January 1996. He intended the photograph to be a retirement gift for his father, William, who is a Korean War veteran. Richard Sheaff of Scottsdale, Ariz., designed the stamp.

Previous U.S. stamps have also recognized the bravery of Korean War veterans and the significance of the Korean War in U.S. and world history. In 1985, the Postal Service issued the 22-cent Veterans Korea stamp. The Korean War, a 33-cent stamp, was issued in 1999 as part of the 1950s "Celebrate The Century" stamp pane.

Veterans Affairs Advisory
Committee Roster

ORIA BERNDT	Non-Commissioned Officers Association
TERM - July 1, 2000 through July 1, 2004	
MARY JO CAHILL	American Red Cross
TERM - July 1, 2003 through July 1, 2007	
MICHELE COLPAERT	Disabled American Veterans
TERM - July 1, 2002 through July 1, 2006	
BILL DAVIS	WA Veterans Home Rep. (RETSIL)
TERM - August 1, 2002 through July 1, 2006	
GEORGE EDMUNDSON	Vietnam Veterans of America - VAAC Chair
TERM - July 1, 2003 through July 1, 2007	
FRANK GAVALDON	American GI Forum
TERM - May 13, 2002 through July 1, 2006	
ROBERT HARCUM	Military Order of the Purple Heart
TERM - July 1, 2003 through July 1, 2007	
FRANK HENSLEY	Military Officers Association of America
TERM - July 27, 2001 through July 1, 2005	
CHARLES KARCZEWSKI	Paralyzed Veterans of America
TERM - July 1, 2003 through July 1, 2007	
RICHARD MARIN	Member at Large
TERM - July 1, 2000 through July 1, 2004	
RUPERT MARKHAM	WA Soldiers Home (ORTING)
TERM - July 27, 2001 through July 1, 2005	
RAY MILLER	National Association for Black Veterans
TERM - July 27, 2001 through July 1, 2005	
DENNIS PRIMOLI	Member at Large
TERM - July 1, 2003 through July 1, 2007	
BILL SCHRIER	American Legion
TERM - August 1, 2002 through July 1, 2006	
MAURICE SHARP	American EX-POWS
TERM - July 1, 2003 through July 1, 2007	
RONALD SPRINGER	American Merchant Marines
TERM - July 1, 2000 through July 1, 2004	
RICHARD A. WHIPPLE	Veterans of Foreign Wars
TERM - March 17, 2003 through July 1, 2004	

Commemoration of Korean War
50th Anniversary Concludes

Korean War veterans from across Washington gathered in Olympia and Fort Lewis on July 27 to honor their colleagues and their nation during the Korean War 50th Anniversary Armistice ceremony.

(Right) Korean War veteran Richard Hazelmeyer of Spokane receives Korean War Medal during Armistice Ceremony at Fort Lewis.



Members of the Chosin Few pay tribute at the Washington State Korean War Veterans Memorial on the Capitol Campus in Olympia.

"When we all get together, we can talk about the same thing from the same perspective. It's a great relief to our whole bodies to get some of this out of our system, and it's not anger or hate or anything like that. We just don't know how to express it."

-- Charley Heath, 2nd Division 38th Infantry Regiment